

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2009

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY IN
PEORIA**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Friday the appointment of Associate Judge Glenn H. Collier of Peoria to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Court Judge John Barra in the 10th Judicial Circuit.

Judge Collier has been an associate judge since 1995 and consistently has had approval marks of 95 percent or higher in the Illinois State Bar Association Judicial Advisory Poll.

Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride recommended the appointment of Judge Collier. Justice Kilbride will preside at a swearing-in ceremony 3 p.m. on Monday, March 30 at the Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main Street, in Peoria, Room 210. The appointment terminates on December 6, 2010.

Before his selection as associate judge in 1995, Judge Collier was Corporation Counsel for the City of Peoria, an Assistant Public Defender for Peoria County and a partner in the law firm of Jackson, Mitchell and Collier.

"He appeared before me regularly when I was a circuit judge, and he was always well prepared," said Chief Judge Michael P. McCuskey, of the U.S. District Court in Urbana and a former Illinois Circuit and Appellate Justice. "I also had the opportunity to review his work when I sat on the Appellate Court for the Third District. Judge Collier did an excellent job as a jurist, and is an excellent choice."

Timothy Bertschy, a former president of the Illinois State Bar Association and a partner in the Peoria law firm of Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen, also had words of high praise for the appointment.

"Judge Collier has a well-earned reputation for being impartial and fair to all who come before him," said Mr. Bertschy. "He has a solid work ethic, a fine mind, and good common sense. He is well liked and respected by the lawyers of this community."

Judge Collier received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, where he was a defensive end and captain of the Illini football team during the 1971 season. He was named to the All Big Ten Football Academic Team, was the recipient of the George Huff Award for academics

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and athletics twice in his collegiate career, and also received the Monsignor Edward J. Duncan Service Award for integrity and dedication to the community while in college.

He received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he served as First Vice President of the Student Bar Association and Student Coordinator for the Clinical Training Program.

Judge Collier continued his community service ethic in his professional career in the Peoria area. He has had board memberships on The Neighborhood House, WTVF Public Television, the Heartland D.A.R.E. Program, Habitat for Humanity, the Peoria Boys and Girls Club, the steering committee for the Illinois High School Association March Madness Basketball Tournament and the Minority Issues Family Violence Committee for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. He has also been honored with awards and published articles lauding him as a mentor, role model and leader in the African American community.

As an associate judge, Judge Collier has been involved with thousands of cases on the civil and criminal dockets in Peoria and Tazwell counties. He has been a presenter at judicial education conferences on traffic law and commercial law. He also is an adjunct instructor of business law for Illinois Central College and has sat as a judge in moot court competitions at Bradley University, the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University and Eureka College.

“I am grateful to Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court for the confidence shown to me by this appointment,” said Judge Collier. “I will continue to always try to do my best in serving the interests of justice and the counties in the 10th Judicial Circuit.”

Tim Howard is a Peoria attorney who has known Judge Collier for years, a relationship that dates to when Mr. Howard was a member of the Peoria County Board and Judge Collier was Corporation Counsel for the City of Peoria. Often, interests of the county and city were joined.

“He was very bright and a hardworking individual as a practicing lawyer and he brought those qualities to the bench,” said Mr. Howard. “I’ve had some experience with him as a sitting judge and he is everything you want a circuit judge to be if your case is coming before that man or woman.

“He is exceedingly polite, extremely honest, highly intelligent and inquisitive; and most importantly, he is fair to all sides and tries to do his best to apply the law and the facts equally.”